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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 8, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: ALL TRAVELLERS' STORIES COVERING TUESDAY EVENTS SUGGEST SENSE OF URGENCY AND IMMINENCE OF MOMENT OR MOMENTS OF TRUTH IN CURRENT NEGOTIATING PROCESS. GWERTZMAN AND SAIKOWSKI, MORE THAN OTHERS, PLACE STRESS ON HAK-GROM NICOSIA MEETING; BERGER JUGGLES CYPRUS STOPOVER WITH CONSIDERATIONS REVOLVING AROUND ATHERTON AND MAW IN ISRAEL; JHABVALA HITS ON DRAWING IN ARAB LEADERS TO SUPPORT US M.E. DIPLOMACY; AND O'LEARY BALANCES ALL THE PIECES BRINGING THE STORY UP TO DAMASCUS. INITIAL WIRE ACCOUNTS (FROM TEL AVIV) COVERING WEDNESDAY SESSION IN DAMASCUS REPORT SECRETARY'S COMMENT ON SOME PROGRESS BUT LACK OF AGREEMENT. BOTH WIRES CITE AMERICAN OFFICIALS' STATEMENT THAT GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT "A LITTLE MORE LIKELY," AND BOTH NOTE NEW SYRIAN "CONSIDERATIONS" HAVE BEEN CARRIED TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. GWERTZMAN (NYT) ARTICLE PAGE 5 UNDER "KISSINGER WINS SOME SOVIET SUPPORT, THEN GETS ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PLAN."

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REPORTS HAK RECEIVED GUARDED SOV SUPPORT IN CYPRUS TALKS,

DESCRIBED AS "USEFUL." US OFFICIALS TOLD PRESS ON PLANE GROMYKO LEFT HAK WITH IMPRESSION SOVS WOULDN'T UNDERMINE DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD AND SOVS WERE ACTING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN "NOT HELPFUL AND HELPFUL." SAYS THIS REGARDED BY HAK PARTY

AS STEP FORWARD. GROM APPARENTLY UNABLE REPORT ON SYRIAN POSITION RE COMPROMISE DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD AND U.S. OFFICIALS SAID HAK REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSING DETAILS OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PLANS WITH GROM. SAYS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN HAK-GROM MEETING ARE LARGELY SECRET TALKS IN JERUSALEM BY U.S. AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS WHO WORKED OUT LANGUAGE FOR NEW ISRAELI PROPOSAL. MCCLOSKEY SAID ISRAEL HAD GIVEN U.S. "NEW CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WILL BE USED AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS" WITH SYRIA. HECTIC ACTIVITIES OF HAK'S SHUTTLING SUGGEST HIS DIPLOMACY HAD OVERCOME ISRAELI RELUCTANCE TO MOVE FROM PREVIOUS DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL. SAY U.S. OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO CAUTION THAT HAK, WHILE HOPEFUL, STILL MIGHT NOT GET ACCORD BEFORE RETURNING TO U.S.

2. BERGER (DID SHE REALLY MISS THE PLANE IN CYPRUS?) CO-BYLINED WITH YUVAL ELIZUR (WASH POST) PAGE 25 UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER-GROMYKO TALKS ON MIDEAST CALLED 'USEFUL'" WITH PIX OF SMILING HAK AND GROM SHAKING HANDS ACROSS CONFERENCE TABLE. SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE SAID HAK NOW ABLE WORK OUT REVISED ISRAELI PLAN, CONFIDENT SOVS WON'T HINDER EFFORTS TO GET DISENGAGEMENT. OFFICIAL DESCRIBED NEGOTIATIONS AS HEADING INTO "CRITICAL PHASE." ATMOSPHERE OF HAK/GROM MEETING CHARACTERIZED BY U.S. OFFICIAL AS "CONCILIATORY" AND WHILE SOVS MAY NOT BE HELPFUL, THEY WEREN'T EXPECTED TO BE "UNHELPFUL." SAYS MEETING CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY HAK FOR WIDER US/SOV COOPERATION. SAYS IF THINGS GO WELL, HAK TO CONTINUE SHUTTLE ANOTHER WEEK. NOTES WHILE MAIN PARTY IN CYPRUS, AHERTON AND MAW WERE MEETING WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS, HAMMERING OUT "REVISED PLAN" FOR HAK TO TAKE TO SYRIA "TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD PROVIDE BASIS" FOR AGREEMENT. BUT ACCORDING TO U.S. OFFICIAL, SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS SHOULDN'T BE BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR TALKS AT EARLY STAGE, IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO CONTINUE. SAYS REVISED ISRAELI PLAN EXPECTED INCLUDE MAP OR IDEAS FOR MAP GIVING KUNEITRA TO SYRIA BUT DEMANDING ISRAELI RETENTION

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OF CERTAIN STRATEGIC HIGH POINTS IN GOLAN.

3. JHABVALA (GLOBE) ARTICLE APPEARS BOTTOM PAGE 1 WITH PIX OF HAK WITH MAKARIOS. LEADS WITH HAK TAKING REVISED ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL TO DAMASCUS AND SAYS THIS, COUPLED WITH GROMYKO ASSURANCES SOV WON'T OBSTRUCT CURRENT U.S. INITIATIVE, HAS INCREASED CHANCES FOR CONCLUDING AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, INCLUDES U.S. OFFICIAL'S CAUTION OF

POSSIBILITY THIS TRIP MAY PRODUCE ONLY DECLARATION OF PROGRESS. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL EXPLAINED PART OF STRATEGY BEHIND HAK'S RAPID AND UNSTRUCTURED MOVEMENTS IS EFFORT TO DRAW ARAB SUPPORT FOR U.S. M.E. DIPLOMACY, ESPECIALLY IN EVENT ACCORD NOT REACHED. "HAK DESIRES ARAB SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORT, ESPECIALLY THEIR INFLUENCE ON SYRIA TO BE

FLEXIBLE." RE HAK/GROM MEETING, JHABVALA REPORTS THAT US OFFICIAL TOOK GREAT PAINS TO DISPEL SUGGESTION HAK MET WITH GROM ONLY TO CONVEY IMPRESSION SOVS INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS; SAID MEETING NECESSARY AND USEFUL BUT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT SOVS WILL DO TO INFLUENCE ASSAD TO MAKE HAK'S EFFORTS A SUCCESS.

4. SAIKOWSKI (CSM) ARTICLE, PAGE 2, HEADLINED "US SEEKS SOVIET OK IN MIDEAST." SAYS HAK IN PERHAPS MOST CRUCIAL PHASE OF DIPLOMACY ONCE AGAIN TOUCHED BASE WITH SOVS. US OFFICIALS DESCRIBED HAK/GROMYKO TALKS AS NECESSARY AND USEFUL, ADDING THAT HAK LEFT WITH IMPRESSION SOVS WON'T BE OBSTRUCTIONIST. SAYS WHIRLWIND GET-TOGETHER MEANT TO GIVE SOVS SENSE OF PARTICIPATION IN ME NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND HAK HOPED SPECIFICALLY TO GET GROM'S IMPRESSIONS OF SYRIAN POSITION. SAYS SALT AND SUMMIT MATTERS ALSO DISCUSSED BUT US OFFICIALS INDICATED LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED BEYOND REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF POSITIONS PRESENTED AT GENEVA. SAYS HAK'S ME STRATEGY TWO-PRONGED -- WANTS DISENGAGEMENT WHILE SETTING FRAMEWORK SO US CAN MAINTAIN SOME SUPPORT OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS IF NO ACCORD REACHED. HENCE, THERE'S CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC ON PERIPHERY OF HAK'S DIRECT TALKS WITH PARTIES; CITES SAUNDER'S SIDE-TRIPS AS EXAMPLES. MEANWHILE, US OFFICIALS SAY HAK MAKING "REASONABLE PROGRESS" IN TALKS WITH ISRAELIS AND MOVING TOWARD SOMETHING THAT MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO WORK, BUT DON'T RULE OUT UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBILITY TRIP MAY END WITHOUT AGREEMENT.

5. O'LEARY (WASH STAR) PAGE 5 HEADLINED "TALKS ON GOLAN ACCORD 'CRITICAL'" LEADS WITH RETURN OF PARTY TO DAMASCUS AT "CRITICAL POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS." SAYS HAK EXPECTS TO GIVE SYRIANS "MORE PRECISE ELABORATION ON WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM ISRAEL" AND WILL KNOW, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE REPORTS, WITHIN 48 HOURS WHETHER DISENGAGEMENT POSSIBLE THIS TRIP OR WHETHER WILL RETURN HOME "WITH ONLY SOME PROGRESS ACHIEVED." NOTES INCREASE IN DIPLOMATIC TEMPO YESTERDAY WITH GROM MEETING IN CYPRUS AND SUBSEQUENT WORKING DINNER IN ISRAEL. TOUCHES SAME GROUND AS OTHERS ON RESULTS OF NICOSIA MEETING, DECLARING HAK NOT EXCLUDING "MASSIVE DIFFICULTIES" IN DAMASCUS, BUT NOT ANTICIPATING SUCH DIFFICULTIES TO BE WORK OF SOVIETS. MENTIONS "POLI-

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